



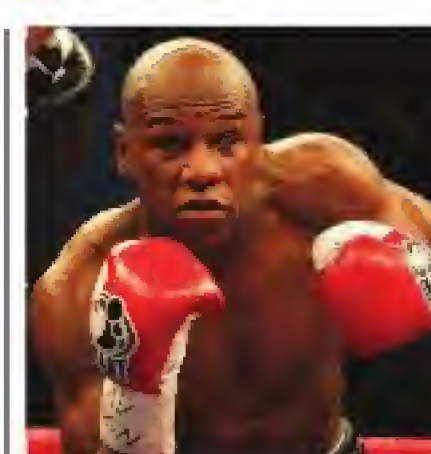
**EXCAVATION
WORK ON THE
SASAKI HIGHWAY**

> LOCAL PAGE 2



**KILLER OF
PIM FORTUYN
RELEASED
FROM JAIL**

> INT. NEWS PAGE 6



**MAYWEATHER
BEATS
MAIDANAN**

> SPORTS PAGE

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Dutch Remembrance Day is observed in Aruba

ORANJESTAD -- Yesterday, May 4th, Dutch citizens, including those of Aruba, observed the official Dutch Day of Remembrance for the lives lost during World War II. On Aruba the ceremony was conducted at the War Memorial located on Adrian Laclé Boulevard, where it intersects L.G. Smith Boulevard.

Holland has its own way of mourning those lost, which takes place on the eve of celebrating the country's liberation from five years of occupation. On May 4th and 5th, the entire Kingdom of the Netherlands, including its Caribbean territories, unites to observe a day of remembrance followed by a day of jubilant festivities. On Aruba, the Ceremonial Corp of the Royal Dutch Marines and a number of Dutch residents joined Aruban officials and dignitaries for the solemn occasion at sunset.

Since the end of the WWII, the Dutch have observed May 4th as a day of reflection; a day to honor the victims of war not with loud parades, but individual prayers for peace. Across Holland, citizens gather at war memorials in their communities and at the stroke of 8:00 PM, the entire country observes a two-minute silence. Marine Corps Reverend Gert Pennekamp delivered the benediction on Aruba.

After the two minutes of silence, Governor Fredis Rufenjol and Adjutant General began the annual ritual of placing memorial wreaths at the base of the monument. Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman also addressed the gathering for a moment, speaking of the brave souls lost and Aruba's own WWII hero, who died fighting in the Dutch Resistance, "Boy" Ecury.

Following the PM's address, the ritual placement of wreaths continued, beginning on behalf of islanders lost in the war, performed by members of the Angela and Dania families. The President of Parliament, Marisol Lopez-Tromp represented that august body. A wreath was placed by Aruba's remaining members of the Shutterij, those who served in the local militia during the war, protecting the refinery. It was an essential asset to the Allies, as well as the power and water plants. During WWII, Aruba experienced a number of attempts to destroy these facilities by roving German U-Boat wolf packs.

The tradition of honoring those who defended the Kingdom of the Netherlands is passed on to island youth each year by having an outstanding student recite a poem or original thesis of what the act of remembrance and the hope for peace signifies to them. This year, Kelsey



Giel of the Aruba Lions Club was selected for that honor.

Prime Minister Mike Eman and Secretary of the Cabinet of Ministers, Nicole Hoeverz, placed a wreath on behalf of the Aruban government. The Dutch Delegation to Aruba also presented at the monument, and the ceremony was completed by the Commandant of

the Royal Dutch Marine Camp in Savaneta, Lt. Colonel Jan ten Hove. Following that, several young members from Aruba Scouting paraded to the monument to each place a single flower. A total of 69 flowers, one for each years since the end of the war, was laid at the foot of the monument listing Aruba's war dead.

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FARC: agreement near on drug trafficking

HAVANA (AFP) - Colombia's FARC guerrilla group said Sunday it was close to an agreement with the government on drug trafficking, as they concluded another round of peace talks in Havana. The two sides have been discussing for the past six months how to deal with an illegal drug industry that has fueled the insurgency as well as right-wing paramilitary groups and organized crime.

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LOCAL NEWS

Excavation work on the Sasaki Highway to continue for a few weeks more



ORANJESTAD -- Elmar N.V. announces that an extensive renovation project on the 60K KW network will continue for a few more weeks. Due to this, the power distribution company has sub-contracted the work to execute the excavation on the Sasaki road. The project was planned with a cooperation by Elmar N.V., the Department of Public Works (DOW) and the Police Department in order to arrange the best way to manage the traffic flow

while executing the project. During the excavation motorist can drive normally; only one lane of the Sasaki road will be closed to ensure the safety of the workers. Elmar N.V. asks motorists to reduce speed and drive with caution when using this road.

When the time comes to pull the 60K KW cables in the trenches, the road will be closed completely for all motor traffic. Motorists will be advised in advance so they can plan alternative

routes, during that time. There will be various times that certain roads and crossings will be closed to perform specific jobs.

According to ELMAR N.V., this is a very important project they are trying to complete with the least imposition to motorists as possible. However, those using the highway must also be vigilant; there are people excavating alongside the road, so please drive slowly and carefully.

Minister Dower visits the halfway-house in Meiveld



ORANJESTAD -- Last Friday, May 2, Minister of Justice Arthur Dowers paid a courtesy visit to the halfway house "Bo futuro Nos Trabou" - "Your Future is our Job," in Meiveld. The halfway house is also known as SAMBA and operates under the auspices of the Fundacion Maneho di Adiccion Aruba (FMAA) - Aruba Addiction Management Foundation, that operates under Minister Dowers.

Minister Dowers was pleasantly surprised to find the building in good con-

dition, but asserted it could use some improvements. He spoke with the clients who expressed their satisfaction with the service they receive there.

The center has a lot of challenges to resolve. The minister met with management to talk about their positive view in planning and implementing solutions. Now that the halfway house operates under a foundation it can count on the support and funding of the community.

ATA, Department of Culture will continue to support International Jazz Day

ORANJESTAD -- During the recent International Jazz Day celebration on April 30, Aruba's Minister of Culture, Otmar Oduber, announced that next year the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) and the Department of Culture will collaborate with planners of the event and help organize the celebration.

This year Aruba celebrated Int'l. Jazz Day for the first time. The event, organized by UNESCO together with Carlos Bislip, was a huge success; everyone present enjoyed a delightful evening concert featuring some of the island's best musicians and bands.

According to Minister Oduber, with the support of the Department of Culture and ATA, the event will be more heavily promoted and

enhance, to elevate it to the status of a major event.

Jazz is a music genre that is increasingly appreciated globally and growing in popularity on Aruba. A new generation of young Arubans are taking jazz classes and have shown great enthusiasm for interpretive music. It is being integrated into our musical culture and the minister considers it important to give this event the attention and appreciation it deserves.

He anticipates the International Jazz Day event becoming major event attracting both for islanders and tourists, where they can mingle and appreciate the ambiance. He foresees it being an event that Aruba can proudly promote internationally.



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LOCAL NEWS

Paradera Park wins Zoover Best Apartment award 2014



Deborah and Henk posing with Zoover award 2014

PARADERA – Last week the winners of the 2014 Zoover Awards were announced in the Netherlands. Zoover, the largest independent review site of the Benelux, named Aruba 'Best Vacation Destination outside the European Union'. The 2014 Zoover Award winner for 'Best Apartments in Aruba' is Paradera Park. It is the first time Paradera Park and Aruba are awarded by this European review site, which gained in popularity and is visited by 185 million users annually.

The Zoover Awards 2014 received 175,000 votes, over 40,000 votes more compared to 2013. These Awards were established to recognize the most popular and best vacation accommodations in both the Netherlands as well as abroad. The Zoover Awards were handed to accommodations in 60 countries.

"We are very pleased with the Zoover recognition. It is yet another milestone in our 20 years of existence. For the past ten consecutive years American review site TripAdvisor has recognized and awarded us. Now we can add the highest recognition of European review site Zoover which makes us proud", states Managing Director Deborah de Weerd. "We receive a variety of nationalities at Paradera Park, such as guests from North- and Latin America, as well as Dutch, other European and local guests. Being recognized and awarded by two of the most renowned review sites in our top markets is an indication that our guests truly appreciate our product and service."

200 years celebrations of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

THE HAGUE --The Kingdom of the Netherlands is 200 years old. Celebrations marking the bicentenary.

The festivities have started from November 2013 and will go on until September 2015. The National Committee for the Bicentenary of the Kingdom has arranged events and festivities that involve as many people and organisations as possible.

The celebrations marking the bicentenary are for everyone, both in the European and Caribbean parts of the Kingdom.

The foundation for the democratic legal order was laid in 1813, and it evolved slowly but surely from there.

In 1848 freedom of assembly and association and the freedom of education were added to the fundamental rights enshrined in the Dutch Constitution, and freedom of the press was expanded.

However, slavery was not abolished in the Antilles and Suriname until 1863.

Since 1815 the Kingdom has become

much smaller. Belgium, Luxembourg, Indonesia, Suriname and New Guinea have gone their own way.

For a long time, three countries remained: the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

Since the constitutional changes of 2010, there are now four countries in the Kingdom (the Netherlands, Curaçao, Aruba and St Maarten) and three special municipalities of the Netherlands (Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba).

Several other events will also be commemorated in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom in the period 2013-2015, such as the abolition of slavery 150 years ago (1863), the 75th anniversary of the first parliament of the Netherlands Antilles on Curaçao (1938) and the 60th anniversary of the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands (1954).

The theme running through all these historical events is the development of the democratic legal order.

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LOCAL NEWS

Tattoo Nation! Aruba gets inked at 2nd Annual Tattoo Convention

PALM BEACH—This past weekend, the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa was host to the 2nd Annual Aruba Tattoo Convention, May 2 & 4. Organized on Aruba by tattooist Ryan Tromp of Inkspiration, located within the gallery of the Sand Beach Bar, it was a testament to the trend of human body as a canvas for artistic expression, and the increasing popularity of this art form.

There were 35 tattooists on duty, five from Aruba and the remainder from parlors in the U.S., the Netherlands and Latin America. Well known artist Graydon Payne of the Rooster Down Gallery traveled all the way from Seattle, Washington to spend the entire day on Saturday adorning the arms and shoulders of a local lady who works at the marine camp with a complex, colorful custom design.

Jim Judeikis, who owns Saints & Sinners gallery in Baltimore, Maryland, was accompanied to Aruba by his wife, Tara, who was originally a client. Together, there is little room on their bodies, at least of what can be seen, that was not adorned with his remarkable artwork. "I have had a tattoo emporium for over 20 years," he commented, "and have seen the nature of the clientele and the status of being tattooed



Gaby and Victor Peralta



change greatly. My shop is located along the Baltimore waterfront in a very trendy, resorted area of landmark buildings—a popular destination. Body art has transcended social and economic barriers and I have customers from every level. Only a short while ago I tattooed a rose on the shoulder of a woman who was getting it done as her 80 year birthday present."

The convention also welcomed as their guest stars Victor and Gaby Peralta, named in the 2014 Guinness Book of Records as "Most Body Modifications for a Married Couple." Between them, Victor of Uruguay and Gaby from Argentina, have "50 piercings, four microdermals, 11 body implants, five dental implants, four ear expanders, two ear bolts and one forked tongue," for a total of 77 modifications, all of which are covered from top to toe with tattoos.

Though many at the convention were on the road to competing with the couple, most had some very particular design in mind, and the artists were only too happy to receive and share creative input. Custom artwork that underlined a clients philosophy and spiritual beliefs, a reminder of a loved one, or the image of their children, and historic figures were popular. Whatever message the subjects wanted to convey, they found their muse at the Aruba Tattoo Convention.

Royal Recognition for Ruth Harms

The birthday of the King of the Netherlands is the traditional occasion to honor those who merit to be honored. In Aruba, four of the 11 persons elected to the elite Dutch Royal Order of Oranje-Nassau could not be present to receive their certificate, medal and ribbon from the hands of Aruba's Governor Refunjol. Among these four was Esther Ruth Harms, daughter of Clyde Harms, the recently retired President of the Aruba Scholarship Foundation.



ORANJESTAD -- Aruban born Ruth Harms, Case Management Supervisor at the Big Brothers Big Sisters Organization of Hampshire County, Massachusetts was honored with Membership to the Dutch Royal Order of Oranje-Nassau. As is customary, the award ceremony took place last weekend on the day before the King's birthday, but as Ruth could not be in Aruba, she will be "decorated in a fitting manner" at a later date.

Ruth was honored for her outstanding and compassionate service at Big Brother Big Sister of Hampshire County, during a quarter of a century and for her two decades of dedicated participation in the volunteer UMASS International Students Hospitality Program that she now presides. The hospitality program connects foreign students at University of Massachusetts at Amherst with host families in the community. Big Brothers Big Sisters is the largest volunteer-supported youth mentoring organization of the United States. A couple of years ago a BB/BS was established in Curaçao and Ruth has personally counseled the director, Mrs.

Coralina Peret Gentil. In Aruba a program very similar to BB/BS is being started under the name of Mentoring Program.

Four years ago the Northwestern Children's Advocacy Project honored Ruth with the Ellen Sedlis Award which is presented annually to "someone whose work demonstrates a long-term commitment to helping children recover from abuse" and the State of Massachusetts presented her with a Citation that reads "In recognition of her outstanding dedication and many valuable contributions for years to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County."

Ruth Harms is married to Dr. Stephen Hickman, an associate pediatrician at Amherst Pediatrics. They have two adult children, Sarah Elizabeth and Rachel. Over a decade the Aruba Tourism Authority named Ruth and Stephen Ambassadors of Goodwill.

Photo above shows Ruth Harms with her young friend Kyra during last year's Daffodil Walk, one of several yearly signature fundraising events organized by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County.

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LOCAL NEWS

A retrospective "The mind of Rudyomar Leysner" now on display at UNOCA



ORANJESTAD- On Friday evening, May 2, the work of Aruban artist Rudyomar Leysner went on display in his first solo show at the UNOCA headquarters in Oranjestad. The work will be on display until Friday May 16. The 26-year old demonstrated various techniques and mediums that he favors, from stylized pencil portraits to manipulating images in a the computer.

Rudyomar has achieved international attention with his work being selected for an exposition at the Univeristy of Calda in Manizales, Colombia in 2011 and earning mention of merit during his participation in the Lara Primer Course in realistic painting, drawing and sculpture in Spain. This exhibition is a precursor to his participation in a group show at the Lucid Gallery in Miami, Florida, with a theme "Psychedelic." Along with his many works on the gallery walls, he provided a small preview of some of the work he will be showing in the U.S.

The artist expressed that he is inspired by the physical world, nature, the elements, translating them to comment on abstract and emotional concepts such as evolution,

joy, innocence and corruption. "Personally, I love getting feedback from those looking at my work, often being surprised and enlightened in that they see something quite removed from what I originally intended," Rudy told THE MORNING NEWS. "This is an aspect of producing artwork that I truly enjoy, and I love when a piece speaks to a viewer based on their life experience and perception in an entirely new and unique message. It doesn't offend me in the least that they didn't necessarily get "my vision," but I see I can learn from theirs."

The UNOCA building is located on the Stationweg in Oranjestad, very close to the Aruba Entertainment Center on the eastern outskirts of the town. Visitors are welcome to view the collection during UNOCA office hours, from 8:00 AM to noon in the morning and from 1:00 to 5:00 PM in the afternoon, Monday through Friday. All of the works being displayed are also for sale.

For more information on purchasing a piece and to discuss his upcoming show, contact Rudyomar Leysner at 568-9058 or via e-mail: jackofito@gmail.com.

The Netherlands marked National remembrance Day



Dutch King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima yesterday attended the National Remembrance Day in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Shortly before 20.00 the royal pair put a wreath at the National Monument.

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WORLD NEWS

Dutch free far-right leader Fortuyn's killer

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The man who murdered flamboyant far-right Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn was freed on Friday after serving two-thirds of an 18-year sentence, the justice ministry said.

Volkert van der Graaf, 44, was jailed for the 2002 cold-blooded shooting of the outspoken and openly gay Fortuyn, an act that shattered the liberal Netherlands' image of itself as a unified and secure society.

"I can confirm that Volkert van der Graaf has been freed on conditional release," justice ministry spokesman Jochgem van Opstal told AFP, declining to provide further details.

A Dutch justice advisory board said last year that Van der Graaf should be granted a "controlled" early release, as the best way to reintegrate and prepare him for an eventual return to society.

The release dominated Dutch newspapers on Friday, with much speculation about what he might now look like and what he will now do.

Van der Graaf was to be handed over to his family, including his partner and their 12-year-old daughter, Dutch media said.

The animal rights activist will not be given a new identity despite fears his whereabouts may be revealed.

He will be "protected", Dutch media reported, but the justice ministry would not say if that meant he would have a bodyguard.

Van der Graaf will have to report to authorities once a week and wear an electronic ankle tag. He will not be allowed to go to Rotterdam, the city where Fortuyn was a politician, or to Hilversum, where he was killed.

Officials warned last year that Van der Graaf's early

release could reopen old wounds, given the widespread public anger that followed Fortuyn's assassination in the car park of a television station on May 6, 2002.

Van der Graaf shot the hugely popular Fortuyn, 54, in the head days before elections in which the Pim Fortuyn List (LFP) party was expected to make major gains on the back of an anti-immigration ticket.

He said he killed Fortuyn because he was worried about the way he stigmatised vulnerable groups, including Muslim immigrants and asylum seekers.

Widely seen as the fore-runner of today's Freedom Party (PVV), led by controversial rightwing politician Geert Wilders, Fortuyn labelled Islam a "backward culture" and called for Dutch borders to be closed to immigration.

Assad to face two candidates in Syria presidential vote

DAMASCUS (AFP) - President Bashar al-Assad is to face two challengers in Syria's June 3 presidential election, which he is assured of winning, the constitutional court said Sunday.

Twenty-three candidates had initially registered to run against Assad, but most did not meet election criteria to run for office in a vote that has been mocked by the opposition and the West as a "farce".

Both Hajjar and Nuri are largely unknown to the Syrian public.

Candidates whose bids were rejected have until May 7 to appeal the court's decision, said Majed al-Khadra of the constitutional court, whose statement was carried by state television.

While the election is the country's first multi-candidate vote, the rules effectively rule out any opponents to Assad's regime from running.

Among them is the stipulation that anyone who has lived outside Syria in the past decade is excluded, effectively barring most prominent opposition figures, who live in exile.

At the same time, the vote will only be held in areas under government control.

The election is being held amid a brutal civil war that has killed more than 150,000 people since March 2011 and made millions homeless.

The regime has barred from voting those refugees who left the country illegally.

Sao Paulo gay march urges action on homophobia



Grupo Gay de Bahia said in February.

Although the total was down 7.7 percent from 2012, the group said it still left Brazil top of the global league for homophobic homicides and urged government action.

The group

estimated four in ten such crimes worldwide occur in Brazil.

Legislation designed to crack down on homophobia has met resistance from Catholic and evangelist lawmakers in parliament. However, the Brazilian Supreme Court in 2011 did recognize same-sex partnerships.

Sunday's participants sought to outdo themselves in racy garb -- one donning an outsize blonde wig topped off with football decor in a nod to the World Cup which will kick off in the city next month.

Last year's march drew an estimated three million revelers.

The parade was scheduled to finish in Republic Square around

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Revelers thronged central Sao Paulo for the city's annual gay pride parade Sunday amid calls to criminalize homophobic behavior.

Main thoroughfares were closed to traffic for the 18th edition of the march, which began at midday in front of the Museum of Art on the main Paulista drag of Brazil's seething business hub.

Marchers at this year's event, first held in 1997 and the largest gay parade in the world, are urging the criminalization of homophobia in a country "without homo-lesbo-transphobia."

More than 300 homosexuals, tranvestites and transsexuals were killed in crimes of a homophobic nature in 2013, Brazilian NGO

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Big quake shakes buildings in Tokyo

TOKYO (AFP) - A powerful earthquake shook buildings in Tokyo early today, AFP reporters in the Japanese capital said, but officials said there was no risk of a tsunami.

The epicentre of the quake -- which struck at 5:18 am (2018 GMT Sunday) -- was near Izu Oshima island southwest of central Tokyo, the Japanese meteorological agency said.

The US Geological Survey said the quake had a magnitude of 5.8 and struck at a depth of 156 kilometres (97 miles).

National broadcaster NHK said there were no immediate reports of any damage or injuries.

The station said Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO), the operator of the stricken Fukushima nuclear power plant, said there were no abnormal signs at the reactors.

Japan is situated at the meeting place of a number of tectonic plates and experiences a number of relatively violent quakes every year.

However, strict building codes frequently mean that even powerful quakes that might wreak havoc in other countries can pass without much damage.

The last quake shook half of Japan. Everyone in Tokyo is awake now!



ARGO (AFP) - A landslide-affected Afghan villager holds her child while looking at the scene of the incident in Argo district in Badakhshan yesterday. Rescue teams abandoned the search for survivors Saturday after a landslide buried a hillside village in northern Afghanistan, killing at least 300 people under a fast-moving tide of rock and mud. Officials said that the final death toll could rise as high as 500 after Friday's disaster, updating earlier information that 2,500 people were feared dead.

Malaysia police chief denies terror arrest link to missing MH370

KUALA LUMPUR -- One of Malaysia's most senior police chiefs has denied there is any link between the arrest of 11 alleged militants and the disappearance of Flight MH370.

The suspects, all aged between 22 and 55, were detained in the Kedah and Selangor regions last week, local media reported.

Multiple news outlets reported that the suspects had links to al Qaeda and were arrested over the disappear-

ance of the Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 which took off from Kuala Lumpur for bound for Beijing on March 8.

"There is absolutely no connection between the arrests and the MH370," said Malaysia's Inspector General of Police.

He also denied reports that the detainees were student activists.

The suspects, who were rounded up by the Bukit Aman Special Branch An-

ti-Terrorism Unit, are believed to have links to terror networks in Syria and southern Philippines and were planning to send Malaysian fighters to Damascus, it was reported.

The development came on the same day as the first funeral for passengers missing on the flight, and a day after the airline said it had started talking to the families to discuss compensation.



GAZA CITY (AFP) - Palestinian women walk past a mural depicting late Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin (L) and late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Gaza City. The Hamas movement's deputy leader Mussa Abu Marzuq said the Islamist movement will never recognise Israel and will not accept the conditions laid out by the Middle East peacemaking Quartet.

German police arrest 11 in raid on paedophile ring

MAGDEBURG (AFP) - German police have detained 10 men and one woman suspected of being core members of a paedophile ring operating across the country, they said Sunday.

Police made the arrests after a raid on the group's annual gathering near the town of Aschersleben on Saturday, police in the central Saxony-Anhalt region said.

Law enforcement agents declined to give details on the group's suspected activity, but said information indicated that members had used their own children to make contact with victims.

Despite the group being "extremely discreet and careful", investigators had discovered it met once a year to exchange contacts and plan alleged illegal acts, police added.

The arrests include 10 men aged 22 to 60 and a 57-year-old woman.



MEDELLIN (AFP) - A man smokes marijuana during the World Day for the Legalization of Marijuana in Medellin, Antioquia department, Colombia on Saturday.



HEALTH & LIVING

Obamacare a punchline at Washington press dinner



WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama cracked jokes about the government's disastrous health care policy rollout and mocked political opponents at the White House Correspondents' Dinner late Saturday.

The annual dinner, filled with insider jokes and elbow jabs masquerading as humor, brings Washington journalists together with celebrities and power brokers for a meal with the president and first lady.

"In 2008, my slogan was 'Yes We Can.' In 2013, my slogan was Control+Alt+Delete," the president joked, a reference to the technical problems on HealthCare.gov, the web-

site created for his signature health care overhaul.

"On the plus side," he said, "they did turn the launch of HealthCare.gov into one of the year's biggest movies." A poster of the Disney movie "Frozen" then flashed on the screen.

There was also a technical problem with a video segment that Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, blamed for the HealthCare.gov debacle, showed up to "fix."

The featured speaker, TV comedian Joel McHale, did not spare the president.

He praised Obama's performance, then said that his favorite presidential joke "was when you said you would close the detention

facility at Guantanamo Bay. That was classic. That was hilarious."

Obama promised to shut down the controversial "war on terror" prison at a US naval base in Cuba when he took office in January 2009, but the site is still open.

Washington reporters -- industry names mostly unknown outside of the US capital -- shared dinner with Hollywood guests like Lupita Nyong'o, Robert de Niro, Patrick Stewart and TV actress Sofia Vergara.

"There are a lot of celebrities here tonight," McHale said. "They're the ones who don't look like ghouls."



JALAL-ABAD (AFP) - An Afghan health worker administers a polio vaccination to a child during a vaccination campaign on the outskirts of Jalalabad in Nangarhar province on Sunday.

A new three-day nationwide immunisation campaign against polio supported by Afghanistan's Ministry of Public Health has begun country wide, officials said. Poliomyelitis which is a viral disease can affect the nerves and can lead to partial or full paralysis. It's a contagious, devastating disease that was virtually eliminated from the Western hemisphere in the second half of the 20th century when the polio vaccine was introduced in 1955.

Marijuana in Uruguay to cost less than a dollar per gram with limits legal pot purchases to 10 grams per week

MONTEVIDEO (AFP) - Uruguay on Friday took a major step in setting rules for the government-regulated sale of marijuana, a daring experiment supported by the country's iconoclastic president.

Officials said that customers can buy up to 10 grams of marijuana a week at a price of 20 to 22 pesos (about \$0.90) per gram.

The small South American country in December became the first in the world to announce that it would regulate the market for cannabis and its derivatives,

a bold move by authorities frustrated with losing resources to fighting drug trafficking.

The new rules state that the officially-sanctioned marijuana will have a 15 percent concentration of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) -- the plant's main psychoactive ingredient -- and come in five varieties.

Buyers must be 18 or older, residents of Uruguay, and must register with authorities.

The new rules are supported by President Jose Mujica, a former guerrilla and medical doctor who leaves office this year.

Once the degree is signed, the government will issue a call for applicants for a limited number of marijuana production licenses.

Canepa estimated that legal

marijuana will be available in pharmacies in December.

The official price is based on production costs and profits for the producers and pharmacies, Canepa said.

The total volume consumed in Uruguay -- a country of 3.3 million people -- "falls around 18 to 22 tons" of cannabis per year, said National Drug Board secretary general Julio Calzada.

"Based on this, we need a maximum of 10 hectares (25 acres)" of crops to meet demand, he added.

Although it has not been illegal to consume marijuana in Uruguay since the 1970s, the sale and distribution of cannabis had been forbidden.

The government's registration requirement however may scare away some potential legal buyers.

"There are some people who are afraid of registering because of their work. And if an anti-marijuana government comes to power, the database could be used against them," said Juan Pablo Tubino, owner of a Montevideo store that specializes in cannabis.

The black market for marijuana -- where minors, foreigners and registration refusniks can get their weed -- will likely remain.

However the new law could "modify" that market, said commissioner Cesar Manuel Sosa, who leads the Directorate for Combating Drug Trafficking.

Hannah Hetzer from the US organization Drug Policy Alliance said there is global interest in studying what aspects of Uruguay's pot-controlling experience can be applied to other countries.

TAJ MAHAL; Taste of INDIA - If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal;" discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb. Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on which you can spoon your main course, as well. Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal. Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary; they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal!



Call 588-4494 for reservations.



ENTERTAINMENT

Ben Affleck Banned From Playing Blackjack at Las Vegas Casino, Source Says



Oscar-winner Ben Affleck may be an A-list star, but even he can't get away with being "too good" at blackjack.

The actor was banned from playing blackjack at the Las Vegas Hard Rock Casino after he was deemed "too good" at the game by security, a source confirmed to ABC News.

Some reports said that Affleck allegedly was counting cards, a gambling method in which the player memorizes which type of cards have already been played and uses that knowledge to perfect his or her playing strategy. It is not illegal but can get a player banned.

"Card counting is perfectly legal," said Colin James of BlackjackApprenticeship.com. "You're just using your brain. But the casinos don't like it because they know if you play long enough you'll take their money."

The casino did not use the words "counting cards," source said, and the Hard Rock said that it is its policy "not to comment" on guests' gaming play.

Affleck was not banned from the entire casino, but was told he could no longer try his

hand at blackjack, the source said.

The Hard Rock hotel was "very nice" about the incident and Affleck was welcome to play other games, the source told us. However, Affleck and his wife, actress Jennifer Garner, decided to head back to their hotel for the night.

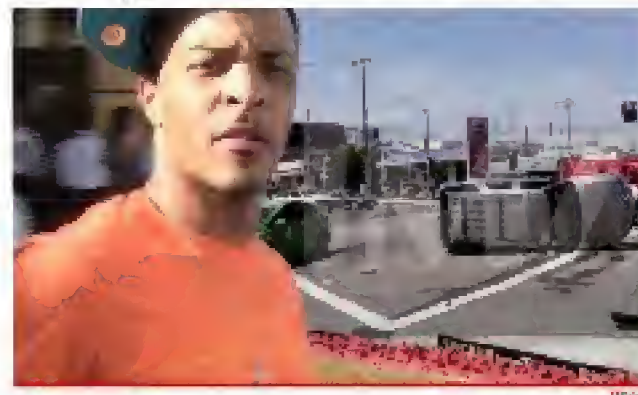
The Hard Rock issued a statement that read, in part, "Mr. Affleck, a valued guest of Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, is not banned from our property and is welcome back any time."

Affleck and Garner were enjoying a quick getaway before Affleck headed to Detroit to start filming on the film "Batman vs. Superman," source said.

Affleck, who reportedly has raked in hundreds of thousands of dollars in blackjack winnings over the years, talked about his love of the game while promoting the 2013 film, "Runner Runner."

"I like to go to casinos and play blackjack and poker," he said, "although I don't have enough recreational time these days."

T.I. Rescues Car Crash Victim ... 'Hey, Are You T.I.?'



T.I. came to the rescue of a woman who had just been in a nasty car accident, but the woman was more excited to meet T.I. than she was worried about the crash.

T.I. tells us he was driving on Inglewood Wednesday when he witnessed a horrific car wreck -- a cab slammed into an SUV, causing it to careen over on its side.

T.I. walked over to the SUV to help the driver when she looked up, saw him, and said, "Is that T.I.?"

The rapper stayed with her until the ambulance came. Once the ordeal was over, T.I. went on his way.



Jeremy Clarkson, host of Top Gear, on last warning from BBC after racist remarks



Television presenter Jeremy Clarkson says he has received a final warning from Britain's publicly funded broadcaster, the BBC, over using racist language while filming Top Gear, one of the world's most popular television shows.

Clarkson, 54, was called before BBC bosses this week after The Mirror newspaper reported he was heard using the word "nigger" as he recited an old version of the rhyme Beny, Meeny, Miny, Moe to choose between cars in filming two years ago.

The newspaper did not say how it got hold of the footage, which was not aired, but the revelation led to calls for Clarkson to resign or be sacked from the BBC, which is funded by a licence fee paid by all UK households who own a television.

The presenter, known for his humorous but blunt style, apologised in a video on Thursday, saying he tried to avoid the racist expression by

mumbling over that part of the rhyme in two takes and replacing it with "teacher" in a third.

But in a regular column in The Sun newspaper on Saturday, Clarkson admitted he was on his final warning from the BBC after the latest controversy to hit the outspoken but highly profitable presenter.

"I've been told by the BBC that if I make one more offensive remark, anywhere, at any time, I will be sacked," wrote Clarkson, insisting he had not used the "extremely distasteful" word.

"It's funny. I've always thought I'd be sacked for something I said."

Christina Aguilera Rocks Tiny Baby Bump in Mini Black Bustier Dress For New Orleans Festival Performance: Picture

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or

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or

Filet of Grouper

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Chocolate

or

Vanilla

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The surprisingly simple way Egyptians moved massive pyramid stones without modern technology



Camels and horses stand tied to a fence below the Great Pyramid of Giza on October 21, 2013 in Cairo, Egypt. (Photo by Ed Giles/Getty Images)

Few have traveled to the pyramids of Egypt and not wondered how an ancient civilization without modern technology could have constructed structures so large they can be viewed from space. Some have theorized they were built inside out.

On the flakier side, some say aliens did it.

Perhaps the most confounding mystery of all involves how incredibly large stones made their way to the middle of the desert without massive mechanical assistance. No camel, even the Egyptian kind, is that strong.

The truth, researchers at the University of Amsterdam announced this week in a study published in the journal *Physical Review Letters*, may actually be quite simple. It has long been believed that Egyptians used wooden sleds to haul the stone, but until now it hasn't been entirely understood how they overcame the problem of friction. It amounts to nothing more, scientists say, than a "clever trick."

They likely wet the sand. "For the construction of the pyramids, the ancient Egyptians had to transport heavy blocks of stone and large statues across the desert," the university said. "The Egyptians therefore placed the heavy objects on a sledge that workers pulled over the sand. Research ... revealed that the Egyptians probably made the desert sand in front of the sledge wet."

It has to do with physics. The sort of sledges the Egyptians used to transport the two-ton loads of stone were pretty rudimentary. They were wooden planks with upturned edges. Dragging something that heavy through hot sand would — unsurprisingly — dig into the grains, creating a sand berm that would make progress nearly impossible. It "was perhaps observed by the Egyptians that in [a] dry case, a heap of sand forms in front of the sled before it can really start to move," says the study, authored by a team of eight

researchers led by Daniel Bonn.

The only way around that problem would be to constantly clear the sand out of the way, making a tedious process even more tedious.

Damp sand, however, operates very differently. According to the research, "sliding friction on sand is greatly reduced by the addition of some — but not that much — water." So this time, researchers placed a laboratory version of an Egyptian sledge in a bin of sand that had been dried in the oven. Then they threw down some water, and measured the grains' stiffness. If the water had the appropriate level of wetness, something called "capillary bridges" — extremely small droplets of water that glue together individual grains of sand — would form.

Indeed, he says the experiments showed the required force decreased in proportion to the sand's stiffness. "In the presence of the correct quantity of water, wet desert sand is about twice as stiff as dry sand," the university says. "A sledge glides far more easily over firm desert sand simply because the sand does not pile up in front of the sledge as it does in the case of dry sand."

Too much water, however, would create separate problems. "The static friction progressively decreases in amplitude when more water is added to the system," the study says.

Adding more evidence to the conclusion that Egyptians used water is a wall painting in the tomb of Djehutihotep. A splash of orange and gray, it appears to show a person standing at the front of a massive sledge, pouring water onto the sand just in front of the progressing sled.

He said the experiment not only solved "the Egyptian mystery, but also shows, interestingly, that the stiffness of sand is directly related to the friction force."

In all, the scientists say, "the Egyptians were probably aware of this handy trick."

Apple, Facebook, others defy authorities, notify users of secret data demands

Major U.S. technology companies have largely ended the practice of quietly complying with investigators' demands for e-mail records and other online data, saying that users have a right to know in advance when their information is targeted for government seizure.

This increasingly defiant industry stand is giving some of the tens of thousands of Americans whose Internet data gets swept into criminal investigations each year the opportunity to fight in court to prevent disclosures. Prosecutors, however, warn that tech companies may undermine cases by tipping off criminals, giving them time to destroy vital electronic evidence before it can be gathered.

Fueling the shift is the industry's eagerness to distance itself from the government after last year's disclosures about National Security Agency surveillance of online services. Apple, Microsoft, Facebook and Google all are updating their policies to expand routine notification of users about government data seizures, unless specifically gagged by a judge or other legal authority, officials at all four companies said. Yahoo announced similar changes in July.

As this position becomes uniform across the industry, U.S. tech companies will ignore the instructions stamped on the fronts of subpoenas urging them not to alert subjects about data requests, industry lawyers say. Companies that already routinely notify users have found that investigators often drop data demands to avoid having suspects learn of inquiries.

"It serves to chill the unbridled, cost-free collection of data," said Albert Gidari Jr., a partner at Perkins Coie who represents several technology companies. "And I think that's a good thing."

The Justice Department disagrees, saying in a statement that new industry policies threaten investigations and put potential crime victims in greater peril.

Twitter became perhaps the first major tech company to routinely notify users when investigators collected data, yet few others followed at first. When the Electronic Frontier Foundation began issuing its influential "Who Has Your Back?" report in 2011 — rating companies on their privacy and transparency policies — Twitter was the only company to get a star under the category.

Early Bird Menu

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm



Appetizers: Stuffed Avocado, Escargots Bourguignon, (choose one) Fruits of the Seven Seas, Choices of Soups

Entrees: Breaded Grouper topped with coconut shrimps served with rice and vegetables

Land & Sea

Chicken Breast, Steak & Shrimps with rice and vegetables

Breaded Chicken Breast

served with mushroom sauce, topped with cheese served with vegetables and stuffed potato

Twin Tenderloin or Chicken Parmesan served on a bed of linguini pasta

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ECONOMY

World Bank: China to have world's largest economy this year

NEW YORK -- The United States has had the world's largest economy for more than 140 years, but according to new numbers from a World Bank project, that run will likely come to an end this year.

The World Bank's International Comparison Project (ICP) recently released comparison GDP estimates for the world's economies for 2011, and found that China's economy had caught up so close to the U.S. its economy is likely to surpass the U.S.'s this year.

That's far sooner than economists had been expecting; the OECD estimated China would become the world's largest economy in 2016; China itself pegged 2019 as the year it would happen. The Centre for Economics and Business Research put it as far off as 2028.

Like many estimates of GDP, the ICP data adjusts the numbers for "purchasing

power parity" (PPP). Because exchange rates fluctuate constantly, measuring the actual (or "nominal") GDP can be misleading; PPP adjusts the numbers to reflect what people in a given economy can actually afford.

In updating its numbers, the ICP found it had underestimated the purchasing power of people in developing countries. Once it adjusted the numbers for the higher purchasing power, it found China's economy to be 87 percent as large as the U.S.'s in 2011.

Given that China is expected to grow 24 percent between 2011 and 2014, and the U.S. economy is expected to grow about 7.5 percent, that would mean China will overtake the U.S. this year.

The U.S. has had the world's largest economy since 1872, when it overtook the U.K., the Financial Times reports.

Mideast airline Etihad unveils luxury 'residence' suite



ABU DHABI : AFP picture taken yesterday in Abu Dhabi shows the interior of the first class suites of the new A380 aircraft of the United Arab Emirates airline carrier Etihad Airways. Etihad Airways will be targeting premium high-yielding passengers as the company announced that its Airbus A380 will offer miniature suite featuring a hived-off bedroom, private bathroom with shower and a dedicated butler. Each of the airline's A380s will feature just one residence, which can be occupied by two people. It will be located at the front of the upper deck on board the double-decker superjumbo. It is the latest in a series of fancy offerings by Etihad, which already offers perks including private first-class chefs and in-flight nannies.

NEW YORK -- AFP photo shows people walking in front of Japanese restaurant Riki, which has a non-tipping policy, in New York. A number of restaurants across the US have decided to discourage patrons from tipping and to include the service charge in the bill. In a country where waiters rely largely on the 15 to 20 percent expected tip for their earnings, some owners see doing away with tips as a way of paying their staff a decent salary.



IMF insists on LatAm economic reform

NEW YORK -- International Monetary Fund (IMF) Director for the Western Hemisphere Department Alejandro Werner has once again called for the region to embark upon economic reforms, claiming that the "least difficult" phase of economic growth is now over.

The IMF most recently forecast a 2.5 percent Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate for the region this year, which it has termed "modest," to be followed by three percent growth in 2015 and Werner attributed the lower growth rates to the instability in international capital markets and the region pushing up against the upper limits of its current production capacity.

Speaking to AFP, Werner differentiated between Latin American countries closely-linked to the US economy, which he predicted will have a marginally better year, and those more dependent on commodities, which is the case of Argentina, for example.

Argentina warned of reduced commodity prices but also recognized the "recent measures to allow for a weaker exchange rate, higher domestic interest rates, and a reduction in certain utility subsidies are steps in

the right direction."

The Outlook forecast sharp decreases in the growth rate in the prices of commodities typically traded by the region in the 2014-2019 period, with the regional average about 6.5 percentage points lower than the commodity boom period of 2003-2011.

Increased global supply of commodities and reduced demand from China have been suggested as some of the causes for reduced international commodity prices.

Although the region cannot on its own set international commodity prices, Werner was more optimistic that sound public policy would be able to minimize the impact of a normalization of US monetary policy, namely the increase in interest rates.

Furthermore, Werner added that many Latin American economies have very low unemployment figures and that there is little excess capital to be used to increase productivity.

This combination of fully utilized resources of labour and capital, Werner contends, means that "growth is now harder to achieve because it requires investment."

Education and Infrastructure

Saturday's Crossword Answer

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | L | U | B | | M | A | N | S | | P | J | S |
| N | I | N | A | | O | W | E | N | | G | A | P |
| N | E | D | S | | D | E | B | O | N | A | I | R |
| | | R | I | T | E | | R | O | | | | |
| R | E | E | S | E | | S | A | D | N | E | S | S |
| A | L | S | | N | A | P | S | | O | N | I | T |
| D | O | S | | S | N | A | K | E | | T | E | E |
| A | P | E | D | | I | M | A | X | | E | V | E |
| R | E | D | E | E | M | S | | P | A | R | E | R |
| | | | | A | M | A | | L | O | S | T | |
| V | E | N | D | E | T | T | A | | | P | A | U |
| A | B | E | | | N | E | E | D | | C | I | T |
| N | B | A | | | D | D | A | Y | | A | N | E |

Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of:
05/04/2014

| | Currency Code | Buying rate banknotes | Buying Cheques | Selling Rate |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| U.S.A. | USD | 1.77 | 1.78 | 1.80 |
| Dutch Antilles | ANG | 98.00 | 100.00 | 100.20 |
| Canada | CAD | 1.60 | 1.62 | 1.64 |
| Britain | GBP | 2.94 | 2.99 | 3.05 |
| Switzerland | CHF | 202.45 | 203.17 | 203.97 |
| Netherlands | EUR | 244.66 | 246.89 | 249.37 |
| Sweden | SEK | 26.37 | 27.09 | 27.89 |
| Denmark | DKK | 32.12 | 32.84 | 33.64 |
| Norway | NOK | 29.01 | 29.73 | 30.53 |
| Japan | JPY | 172.22 | 173.79 | 175.54 |

(per 10,000)

All rates for amounts up to AWG 100.00 per item.

HUH?! COMICS



Important Numbers



GENERAL INFORMATION 118

EMERGENCY

Police - Fire Department -

Ambulance 911

Coast Guard 913

HOSPITAL

Horacio Oduber Hospital 527-4000

Medical Center San Nicolas 524-8833

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Aruba Taxi Company 587-1300

Diamond Taxi Service 587-2300

Taxi Address Service 587-5900

Arubabus 588-0617

Rx Pharmacies & Doctors on Duty

Sat, 03 May 2014 - Fri, 09 May 2014

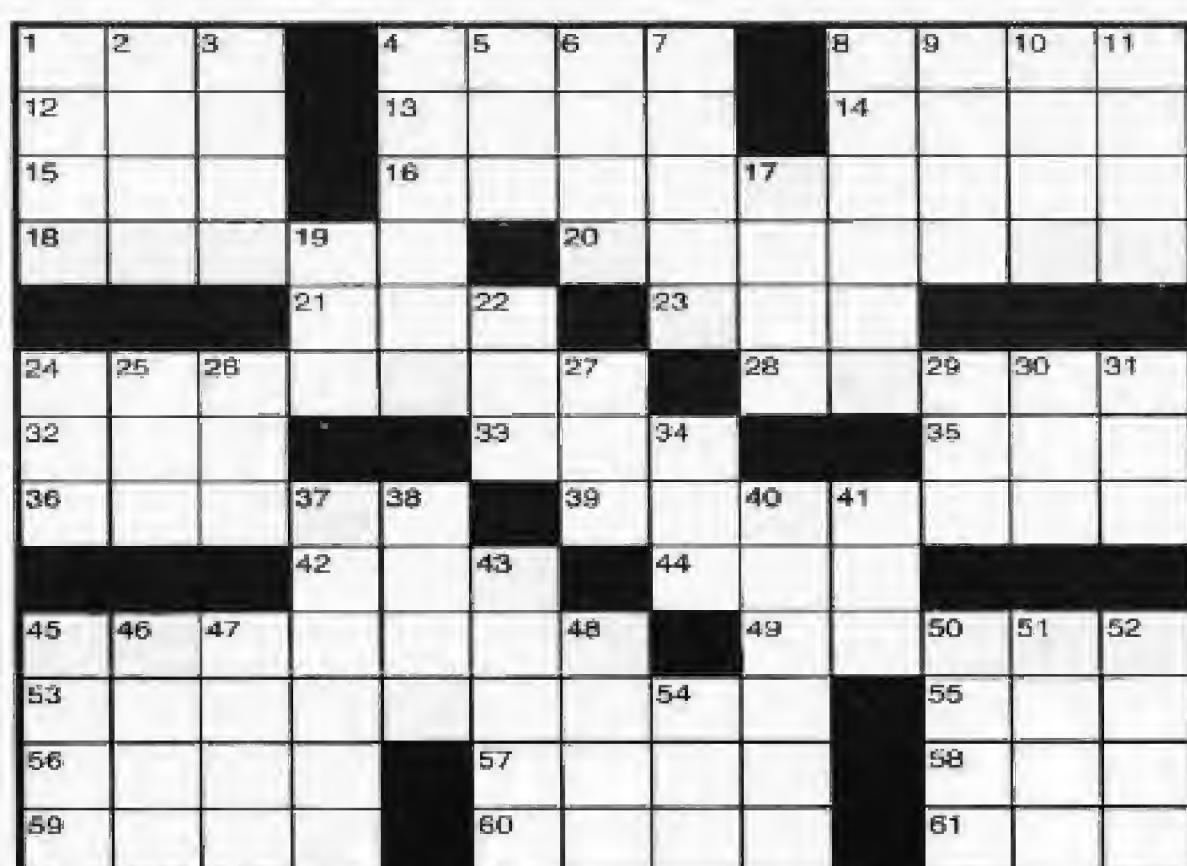
Oranjestad: Botica Centraal 585-1965

San Nicolas: Botica San Nicolas 584-5712

Family Physician post 587-4631

Medical Center San Nicolas 524-8833

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Angle starter
4. Wedding vows (2 wds.)
8. Type of radio (hyph.)
12. Fedora, e.g.
13. Actress Patricia
14. Bull or rooster
15. Ship letters
16. Forced delay
18. Harry Belafonte's daughter
20. Rejected
21. Movie studio's inits.
23. Vague schedule info (abbr.)
24. Gardener's purchase
28. Jolly Roger

feature

32. Panasonic rival
33. McCartney's title
35. Verbalize
36. Mythical strongman
39. Undress
42. Poker pile
44. NYC transit org.
45. Rome, the ____ City
49. "Love ____ the Ruins"
53. Dior of fashion
55. Director Howard
56. TV's Monty
57. Surrounded by
58. Student's concern (abbr.)

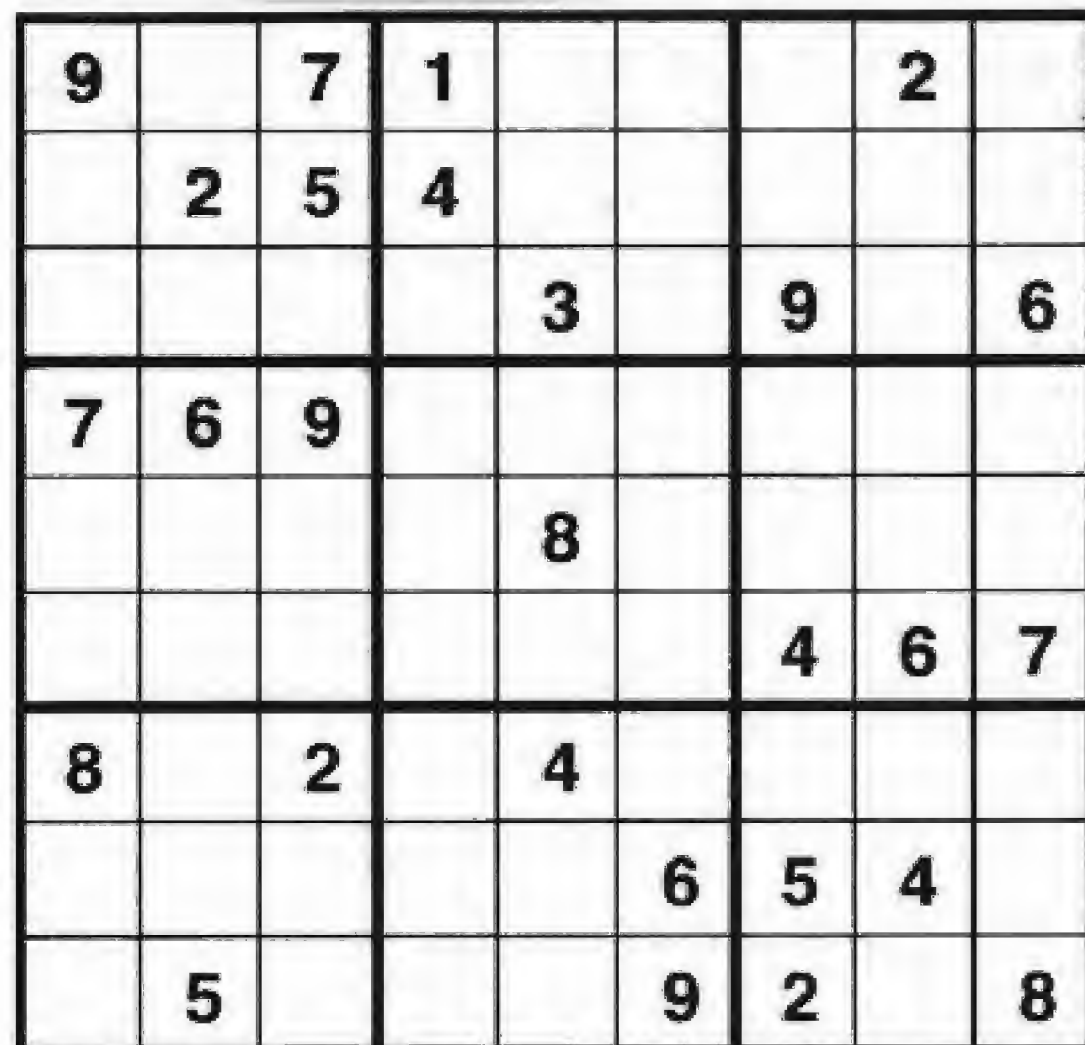
DOWN

59. Has debts
60. Donaldson and Spade
61. Game, ____, match
1. In this way
2. Allergic reaction
3. "____ deal!" (2 wds.)
4. Blue dye
5. Billy ____ Williams
6. Horse's snack
7. Took a nap
8. Rail system corp.
9. Central
10. Floating ice mass
11. Fix a rip
17. Stubby pieces



19. Chambers (abbr.)
22. Behave or print preceder
24. Singing syllable
25. Pumpkin mo.
26. Close friend
27. Jar cover
29. Hope performance locale
30. Chem. room
31. Caustic substance
34. Brink
37. Rainy months
38. ____ and daughters
40. Tolerates
41. Lamb's daddy
43. London farewells (2 wds.)
45. Canyon sound
46. Liquefy
47. A Gardner
48. Peruvian capital
50. Assocs.
51. "Nix!"
52. Annoying insect
54. Point a camera

Sudoku



SOLUTION

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 4 |
| 6 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 5 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| 2 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 2 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 5 |
| 5 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 2 |
| 9 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 1 |
| 1 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 9 |
| 1 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 6 |

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



WRITE-UPS

Discover authentic Aruban cuisine at The Queen's



been in her family for generation. As Varella says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home."

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

Be sure to try Luisa's acclaimed "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"—"Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena—"Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly

memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe preparation of banana hasa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.



Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen

Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining. Telf. 5860606

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."



Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aru-

ba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area, also house a restaurant and mini-market.

There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and

public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.



SPORTS



Lunch Buffet

Saturday - Sunday

12:00 - 3 p.m.

Dinner

Monday - Sunday

6:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Palm Beach Center - Palm Beach Aruba - Tel: 5860944

BRIEFS:



TALLADEGA (AFP) - Jimmie Johnson, driver of the #48 Lowe's / Valspar Reserve Chevrolet, is introduced before the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Aaron's 499 at Talladega (Alabama) Superspeedway on Sunday.



FRANCE - Living up to the club's nickname - 'The Farmers' - hundreds of Guingamp fans traveled to Paris for their Coupe de France final against Rennes in the super-slow-moving vehicles. Obviously, this made for some hilarious scenes on French highways. The trip from Guingamp to Paris takes about four and half hours by car, so you can only imagine how long and uncomfortable that journey must have been. In fact, according to Metro, some fans feared it might take them so long, they reportedly left for Paris a day early and slept in the tractors overnight! Thankfully the Farmers won the final 2-0 over Rennes for their second-ever cup triumph. Had they lost, that would have made for one miserable drive back!

Atletico title hopes rocked by Levante defeat



MADRID (AFP) - La Liga leaders Atletico Madrid suffered a huge blow to their chances of a first title in 18 years on Sunday as they slumped to a 2-0 defeat away to Levante.

Filipe Luis' own goal after just seven minutes got the Champions League final-

ists off to the worst possible start and they were then denied time and again by the inspired Keylor Navas in the Levante goal.

And in their push for an equaliser, Diego Simeone's men were caught on the counter-attack 21 minutes from time when David Bar-

ral slotted home from Victor Casadesus' cross.

Atletico will still be crowned champions if they win their remaining two games at home to Malaga and away to Barcelona on the last day of the season, but any more slip-ups will allow Real Madrid the chance to take the title should they win their remaining four games.

Atletico had enjoyed a momentous week as they progressed to the Champions League final for only the second time in their history with a 3-1 win over Chelsea on Wednesday.

Atletico Madrid's Brazilian-born forward Diego da Silva Costa (L) vies with Levante's Costa Rican goalkeeper Keylor Navas

Serena, Sharapova cruise in Madrid, Djokovic withdraws

MADRID (AFP) - Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova eased through their Madrid Openers Sunday but Novak Djokovic withdrew with the right wrist injury which could compromise his French Open dream.

World number one Williams began the defence of her Madrid Open title with a comfortable 6-2, 6-1 win over Swiss 17-year-old Belinda Bencic while Sharapova was equally untroubled in a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Czech Klara Koukalova.

Djokovic, the world number two who had been targeting Rafael Nadal's number one ranking, was forced to pull out after failing to recover from his ongoing wrist injury.

The six-time Grand Slam champion suffered the injury in losing to Roger Federer in the semi-final of the Monte Carlo Masters a fortnight ago.

The injury also means that Djokovic is facing a race against time to be fully fit for the French Open, the only major he has yet to win, which gets under way in three weeks' time.



Williams, a 17-time Grand Slam winner, was playing for the first time since suffering a shock defeat to Jana Cepelova in Charleston over a month ago.

But she showed no sign of rustiness to set up a second round meeting with China's Peng Shuai.

With Swiss compatriot Martina Hingis watching from the stands, Bencic made a bright start and had two break points to lead 2-1 in the first set.

However she was then unable to cope with Williams' powerful groundstrokes as the American raced through the rest of the first set.

Williams was even more relentless as she moved into a 5-0 lead in the second set and, despite some resistance from Bencic to save match points in the sixth game, the two-time Madrid champion

went on to seal victory in just under an hour.

Such was her dominance that Williams even racked up 21 consecutive points at one stage on Sunday.

Four-time Grand Slam champion Sharapova made light work of Czech veteran Koukalova.

Sharapova claimed her first title of the year on clay in Stuttgart two weeks ago and continued her return to form after a difficult start to the year to take victory in little over an hour.

Last year's finalist in Madrid will next face unseeded American Christina McHale.

It was a more difficult afternoon for fifth seed Petra Kvitova as she needed a final set tie-break to overcome Romania's Sorana Cirstea 6-1, 5-7, 7-6 (7/4).

The former Wimbledon champion looked well on course for the second round after racing through the opening set, but was then broken four times in the second as the world number 27 levelled the match.

SPORTS

Marc Marquez Dominates Jerez MotoGP



JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA (AFP) - World champion Marc Marquez continued his perfect start to the season by winning the Spanish MotoGP Grand Prix at Jerez on Sunday. The 21-year-old won his 36th Grand Prix in just his 100th GP with seven-time world champion Valentino Rossi second, just ahead of Marquez's compatriot and Honda team-mate Dani Pedrosa. Marquez, who had won all three previous Grand Prix this season, extended his world championship lead over Pedrosa to 28 points. He thus became the first rider since Australian Mick Doohan in 1992 to win the first four races of the year while it was also the first time he had claimed success at the Spanish GP. Behind him there was a great battle brewing between Rossi, who earned his second podium of the year, and Pedrosa.

Iwakuma wins his season debut for Mariners



HOUSTON (AFP) - Japanese pitcher Hisashi Iwakuma won his Major League Baseball season debut Saturday, pitching 6 2/3 innings to help the Seattle Mariners beat the host Houston Astros 9-8.

Iwakuma missed more than a month at the start of the season with a torn extensor tendon in his right middle finger, but was activated hours before the game so he could take the mound.

The 33-year-old right-hander,

who finished third in last year's American League Cy Young Award voting, allowed four runs on six hits while striking out three Houston batters.

Iwakuma threw 56 of his 81 pitches for strikes and helped stake the Mariners to a 9-2 lead entering the seventh inning before the Astros rallied late.

Iwakuma, who went 14-6 with a 2.66 earned-run average over 33 starts last season, spent five seasons with Japan's Kintetsu Buffaloes and six more with the Rakuten Eagles before leaving his homeland after the 2011 season to join the Mariners.

The Mariners are off to a 13-15 start to the season while Houston has the worst record in the American League at 10-20.

Thunder, Clippers book second-round showdown



OKLAHOMA CITY (AFP) - The Oklahoma City Thunder overpowered the Memphis Grizzlies 120-109 on Saturday to line up a clash with the Los Angeles Clippers in the second round of the NBA playoffs.

Russell Westbrook notched his second triple-double of the series with 27 points, 16 assists and 10 rebounds, and Kevin Durant scored a game-high 33 points for the Thunder -- who won the best-of-seven Western Conference first-round series four games to three.

The Clippers advanced with a 126-121 game-seven triumph over the Golden State Warriors in Los Angeles.

Westbrook joined Rajon Rondo as the only players in NBA history to record triple-doubles in two game sevens. His first also came against Memphis in 2011.

The Grizzlies, missing the suspended Zach Randolph and with Mike Conley nursing a sore hamstring, gave it all they had, taking a 36-27 lead after the first quarter and leading by as many as 11

in the second period before the Thunder inexorably asserted themselves.

Durant, expected to be named the NBA Most Valuable Player next week, was a perfect five-for-five from three point range and pulled down eight rebounds in the victory.

The Clippers kept their post-season push going despite the controversy surrounding owner Donald Sterling.

Blake Griffin scored 24 points and DeAndre Jordan added 15 with 18 rebounds, the pair combining on a string of stirring plays down the stretch to secure the close-run victory.

Chris Paul scored 22 points and 14 assists for the Clippers, who got 22 from Jamal Crawford and 20 from J.J. Redick.

Steph Curry totaled 33 points and nine assists, and Draymond Green added 24 points for the Warriors, who had stayed alive on Thursday with a 100-99 victory.

California Chrome wins Kentucky Derby



LOUISVILLE (AFP) - California Chrome swept to victory in the 140th Kentucky Derby on Saturday, powering away in the closing stretch to win the first leg of US flat racing's Triple Crown.

Colombian Jockey Victor Espinoza took the pre-race favorite past Uncle Sight and Chitu at the top of the stretch and easily held off the rest of the 19-horse field for his fifth consecutive victory.

It was Espinoza's second victory in the \$2 million, 1 1/4-mile Run for the Roses. He piloted War Emblem to the win in 2002. It also made 77-year-old Art Sherman the oldest trainer to saddle a Kentucky Derby winner -- surpassing Charlie Whittingham, who conditioned a winner at the age of 76. California Chrome's owner, Steve Coburn, immediately said the chestnut colt with the splashy white markings would be pointed at the Preakness and Belmont Stakes.

The second leg of the Triple Crown, the Preakness, will be held at Pimlico in a fortnight. The series concludes with the 1 1/2-mile Belmont in New York on June 7.

SPORTS

Mayweather beats Maidana to unify welterweight belts

LAS VEGAS (AFP) - Pound-for-pound king Floyd Mayweather ran his perfect record to 46-0 with a 12-round majority decision over Marcos Maidana in a welterweight world title unification bout Saturday night.

The 37-year-old American Mayweather retained his World Boxing Council world title and took Maidana's World Boxing Association belt, winning the fight on two of the three judges' scorecards, with the third scoring it a draw.

"It was a tough competitive fight tonight," Mayweather said. "I stayed in there. I wanted to stand and fight."

Mayweather, who was an 11-1 favourite heading into the fight, received scores of 117-111 and 116-112. The third judge scored it 114-114.

Mayweather did not get the decisive victory that so many had predicted as the more aggressive Maidana gave him all he could handle.

The event was marred when a large crowd of fans, fearing what they thought was a gunshot, rushed in panic towards the exit. Argentina's hard-punching Maidana, 30,



who was making the first defense of his title, suffered the fourth loss of his career to go with 35 victories.

Maidana was upset with the way the fight was scored, saying he was "robbed" of the decision.

"Nobody has ever attacked him the way I did. And nobody has ever landed punches the way I did."

Most of Mayweather's recent fights have been boring tactical affairs, but Maidana's relentless pur-

suit of the unbeaten champion and willingness to go toe-to-toe made for an exciting bout.

Many in the crowd also thought Maidana had done enough to win the fight and his supporters in the arena booed the decision, then tried to drown out Mayweather's post-fight interview.

In the 11th, Maidana pushed Mayweather partly through the ropes then threw more punch-

es while Mayweather was leaning over backwards almost falling out of the ring.

Mayweather made a grand entrance befitting his superstar status. He was accompanied into the ring by pop star Justin Bieber and rapper Lil Wayne.

Maidana landed a total of 221 punches -- more than any fighter against Mayweather in his last 38 fights.

Some see Mayweather's inability to dominate like he has done in the past as a sign that father time might be catching up to him.

After the fight MGM officials had to deal with the upheaval caused by the stampede.

Eric Poleski, battalion chief for the Clark County Fire Department, said 24 people were taken to Las Vegas hospitals after a panicked crowd stormed out the front doors of the MGM's Grand Garden arena, where the world championship fight had just finished late Saturday.

Poleski said the injured ranged in age from young children to older adults. No serious injuries were reported, but those taken away in ambulances included a young fan rushed to a local children's hospital.

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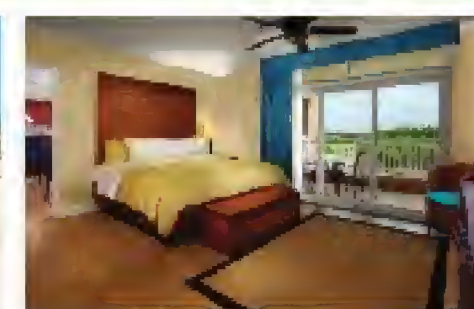
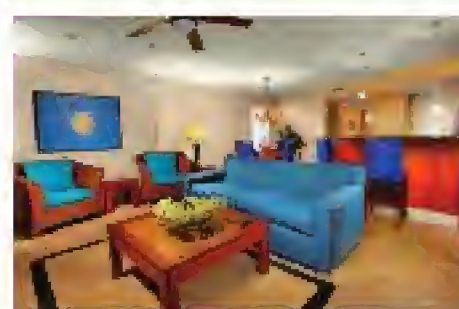
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